



Corresponding with Jeju Scoria, Vessels 1-5 displayed as part of online exhibition

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Dr Christopher McHugh

a Lecturer in Ceramics and Global Engagement Lead at Belfast School of Art, Ulster University, UK. His practice-led ceramics research explores the relationship between artistic and archaeological methodologies, often focusing on particular archives, museum collections and communities. As part of this, he is interested in how an engagement with material and making can enhance wellbeing and encourage social inclusion. In 2016, he was Arts and Humanities Research Council Cultural Engagement Fellow at the University of Sunderland, UK, where he developed a ceramics and wellbeing project with military veterans.

Title: Corresponding with Jeju Scoria, Vessels 1-5 (2020)

Materials: Jeju scoria

Dimensions: c.10 x 10cm

This is an experimental body of research artefacts made as part of my contribution to *The Clay Reader – Scoria, Scoria, Jeju Scoria*, a modified artist in residence programme focusing on the creative potential of volcanic scoria soil from Jeju Island, South Korea. These vessels were formed and fired in molochite and plaster moulds using a process reminiscent of the pâte de verre technique of kiln forming glass frit. The interiors of the moulds were texturised or incised with simple imagery. The title responds to the project having been modified from a residency on Jeju Island to a postal project due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is also a reference to anthropologist Tim Ingold's (2013) concept of 'correspondence', where the act of making is dependent upon a mutually constructive relationship between the material and the sensory awareness of the maker. My own correspondence with Jeju scoria, involved a series of experiments through which I gradually gained an understanding of how I could work with it. Although this was an almost alchemical process which involved attempting to tame this relatively non-compliant material, it was also essential to embrace the particular material properties of the scoria. The resulting pieces have a primitive, archaeological appearance, where the natural qualities of this volcanic material merge with cultural references.

Ingold, T. 2013. Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture, London; New York: Routledge.

<https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/en/persons/christopher-mc-hugh>

Further information

About the project:

<https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/en/activities/the-clay-reader-scoria-scoria-jeju-scoria-artist-in-residence>

Paper:

https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/89629604/_Christopher_McHugh.pdf

Images of the work:

<https://pure.ulster.ac.uk/en/publications/corresponding-with-jeju-scoria-artwork>

Film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgC9HRoRsis>

